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CIA 4.02 TORNADO

## NATO plane found to be spy target

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There was no surprise here that the Soviet Union had spies at work to obtain secrets about the new NATO multi-role jet fighter Tornado.

When in use in West Europe at the end of this decade, the Tornado will be invaluable for defense purposes.

The West German federal attorney's office in Karlsruhe confirmed Aug. 15 that a Belgian and a West German had been arrested for trying to sell secrets about the airplane to "Eastern secret service agencies" for \$11 million. Unofficial sources said the Soviet Union was involved. The arrests were made before the sale was completed.

The story had been leaked by the West German right-wing newspaper Die Welt in its early Aug. 16 editions. The West German authorities said the leak would damage its investigation, now centered on finding sensitively placed persons in industry who helped the two arrested.

The Belgian, Valerian Kuzniak, was arrested as he was about to pass a suitcase of blueprints to a third person, who has not yet been named.

The swing-wing (for short takeoff) Tornado is packed with advanced electronic devices, said by defense officials to be the secret material sought by the Soviet Union.

The Tornado will fly twice the speed of sound as low as 30 feet off the ground. Its electronics will allow it to skim over the uneven contours of the European landscape automatically at a constant altitude.

It can fly in any weather conditions and at night. It also is a fighter plane and a bomber.

Concurrently new highly explosive mini-mines are being developed capable of detonating when landing on the ground or later after being strewn over a given area by the Tornado. These mines, experts say, could make areas larger than a football field impassable for groups of tanks.

Warsaw Pact tanks outnumber NATO tanks by a factor of nearly four to one, according to widely accepted estimates. Hence the Tornado would be an invaluable defense weapon in the event of conventional war in Europe.

In July, West Germany, Italy, and Britain signed a government agreement for a series production of 809 Tornados, of which West Germany is expected to order 324, Italy 100, and Britain 385.